(b) if so what steps have been taken by Government to make justice inexpensive and easily accessible to all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the need for speedy and inexpensive justice. Various steps have been taken by the Government in this regard. These include, *inter alia*, amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial officers, establishment of easily accessible special courts/tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

The Lok Adalats have proved an effective mechanism for alternative disputes resolution through pursuasive and conciliatory approach. The enforcement of the Legal Service Authority Act 1987 is also a step forward in the direction to make justice inexpensive. On the basis of the information received from the Natiional Legal Services Authority, total number of Lok Adalats held and number of cases disposed of by such Adalats from 1995-96 to 1998-99 were 35061 and 36,32,887 respectively.

Appointment in the constitution Review Committee

1315. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister for LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had invited Shri R. Venkatraman to head the Constitution Review Committee and he had accepted the invitation; and

(b) whether the invitation was withdrawn owing to pressure from the powerful political quarters including D.M.K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hindu succession Act

†1316. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not made any amendment in the Hindu Succession Act to give women their right in property in Joint families; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.